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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that 4/5/68
Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the FBI as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

JFK ACT
RELEASE

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the FBI in Birmingham, Alabama, today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

The FBI complaint charges that "On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ...Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr.,...in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama...."

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Sims FBI
SAC-62-32732

According to Mr. Hoover, a 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that FBI Agents determined that the 30.06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight also was purchased from this dealer.

The FBI Director said that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. The Mustang's odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August, 1967, and early April, 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; Birmingham, Alabama; and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Intensive investigation by the FBI has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October, 1967; and in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on December 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He left New Orleans on December 19th and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as a white male. He is approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair, which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow; his teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of western and country music.

~~The Federal statute under which Galt has been charged provides a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment and/or $5,000 fine. Bond of $50,000 has been recommended.~~

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

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BOOKING KING'S KILLER

WS APR 17 1968

...Or Maybe Ian Fleming?

Was the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a man influenced by two characters in contemporary fiction—one a glorified individualist who hates society and the other an Ian Fleming arch villain?

The name of the man listed on the registration card of the white Mustang car linked to the slaying is "Eric Starvo Galt." The FBI has been unable to find anything to indicate that any such a person exists.

In Ayn Rand's 1957 novel, "Atlas Shrugged," the leader of a tiny minority of people described as able, creative and ultra-conservative is "John Galt." And in some of Ian Fleming's James Bond stories, the leading enemy of the status quo is called "Ernst Stavro Blofeld."

Ayn Rand's novel begins with the quote: "Who is John Galt?" but the character remains hidden from the reader for over half the book, at which time he appears and delivers a scorching denunciation of society that runs some 60 pages of monologue.

The literary "Galt" lives in the United States of the future in which the economy is mysteriously declining. Miss Rand's

An artist's unofficial conception of Galt.

version is that the competent men of the world are vanishing while the greedy incompetents are taking over. The disappearance of the competent "productive" is part of their plot against the looters and parasites because the able men are convinced society must collapse before there can be a healthy social order.

To the fictional Galt, the looters are politicians, bureaucrats, self-styled intellectuals who are evil and must be destroyed. Galt denounces mysticism and glorifies reason. His gospel is abolition of the income tax, an end to foreign aid and end of social welfare legislation. At the end, as Galt and his cohorts fly to their Atlantis they see New York writhing in its last convulsions.

Ernst Stavro Blofeld is the much-less philosophical villain of "Thunderball" and two other Fleming novels.

If the man who murdered King was influenced by the views of the fictional characters, or even just concocted an alias from a combination of the names, an investigator might draw the conclusion that the fugitive is a man of some education or affinity for reading. Persons who claim to have seen the suspect, before and after the April 4 assassination, describe him as neatly dressed and well-spoken.

There is some speculation that he is a professional killer, rather than an "amateur." But federal investigators studying the minute details of the case say there is no reason to put more credence in one idea of the other

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